THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA) : (a) and (b) As on date, Ministry has permitted 512 TV channels belonging to 224 companies. 436 private satellite TV channels have been permitted to uplink from India as per uplinking guidelines, out of which, 234 are news & current affairs TV channels and 202 are non-news & current affairs TV channels. Besides this, 76 private satellite TV channels, uplinked from abroad, have also been permitted to downlink in India as per downlinking guidelines. Out of this, 15 are news & current affairs TV channels and 61 are non-news & current affairs TV channels. As such, total number of news and current affairs TV channels is 249 and number of non-news & current affairs TV channels is 263 under uplinking and downlinking guidelines.

(c) At present a total of 224 companies have been permitted to operate various channels. 188 companies have been permitted to uplink TV channels from India. Out of which, 43 companies have varying components of foreign equity. 36 companies have been permitted to downlink foreign-uplinked TV channels in India, out of which 24 companies have varying components of foreign equity.

Regulation for TV channels

352. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether in an effort to built political consensus on controversial issue of establishing a broadcast regulator for television channels in the country, his Ministry has written to States and Union Territories on the issue;

(b) if so, whether a meeting of Information Ministers of States has also been convened to discuss the issue at length;

(c) if so, the outcome of the meeting held and the view of State Governments; and

(d) whether a legislation in this regard is likely to be introduced in the current session of the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA) : (a) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has been in communication with the State Governments and Union Territories to elicit their views on the proposed draft of the Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill, 2007.

(b) and (c) The agenda for the next Conference of the State Information Ministers which has been convened on 5th December 2009 at Vigyan Bhawan includes *inter-alia* discussion on the proposed draft Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill.

(d) No, Sir.